

I found the three-stage model of migration to be interesting and I like making up stories so I chose to develop a case study about fictitious people.

The first stage is lifestyle driven and it mostly affects the young-old group. In most cases in this stage people choose to move to a retirement community in one of the Sunbelt states. My story is about Tom who was a CEO at Caterpillar, which is the world's leading manufacturer of construction and mining equipment, engines, gas turbines, and locomotives. Tom's wife, Sue, also worked at Caterpillar and they were both very well off; they decided to retire together at sixty years old. They loved to travel and have previously visited places all over the world together. They decided to be "snow-birds" because they have grandchildren and still wanted to be around for them. They bought a condo in Florida in a retirement community and stay there every year during the winter months. Tom and Sue really enjoy having a home in two different states and they feel as though they were very lucky to be able to retire at such a young age and still enjoy life.

The second stage is triggered by a chronic illness that limits an elderly person's abilities to perform the simple activities of daily living. Bill was a single man with two children in their twenties and was living in Chicago, IL. He worked as an accountant at an office that he had been working at for most of his adult life and he had been an accountant since his early twenties. One day, Bill's boss began to see changes in his work behavior and was worried about him. Bill was diagnosed with early on-set Alzheimer's disease; he chose to move to his previous home of Peoria, IL to be closer to his oldest brother and three of his sisters. His oldest brother was wealthy and decided to buy Bill a house in order to give

Bill some feeling of independence; this allowed Bill to feel in charge of his life still and it also made him happy even though he was facing a disease that would soon destroy him. Bill's sisters took turns coming to his home every day to prepare meals for him and keep the house clean. Bill was able to live in his home with help from his sisters and a nurse that came over every day for four years until he had to make the move into a nursing home.

The third stage of migration is when a sudden or severe disability makes it impossible for an individual to live on their own. Ruth is an elderly woman in her late seventies whose husband passed away twenty years ago and who has four adult children who all have lives of their own. Ruth has lived in the same house since her youngest child was born, whom is now fifty five years old. She has done a very good job of taking care of herself and was a very social person who attended outings and activities three to four times a week. She has recently had a stroke that affected the right side of her brain causing paralysis of the left side of her body, vision problems, a change in her behavior, rapid and erratic movement, and some memory loss. Her family was very worried about her and decided that it was unsafe for her to live alone. They are all too busy to give her the proper care and attention that she needs, so they decided it was time to move her into a nursing home. Ruth was not very happy about the move because she has been independent for so long, but she knew that it was the right thing to do for her health and safety.